

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) A method for producing a silicate phosphor, comprising the steps of:

forming the precursor of the phosphor by mixing a first liquid dispersion of wet silica with a second liquid containing a metallic element; and calcining the precursor, wherein the calcining includes the steps of,

a first calcining of the precursor such that any fusion of the wet silica is insubstantial,

mixing a sintering inhibitor in a calcined product obtained in the first calcining, and

a second calcining comprising calcining the calcined product obtained in the first calcining.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the wet silica is colloidal silica.

9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a BET specific surface area of the wet silica is not less than 50 m<sup>2</sup>/g.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~at least one~~ the metallic element is selected from the group consisting of Zn, Mn, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Y, Zr, Al, Ga, La, Ce, Eu and Tb.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein in the precursor forming step, a solution including a precipitant which forms a precipitate by reacting with the metallic element is mixed.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the precipitant is organic acid or alkali hydroxide.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the wet silica is prepared beforehand.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the first liquid is water, alcohol(s), or a mixture of water and alcohol(s).
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the second liquid is water, alcohol(s), or a mixture of water and alcohol(s).
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)
20. (Previously presented) A phosphor produced by the method of claim 7.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Currently amended) ~~The phosphor of claim 1,~~ A silicate phosphor containing a silicon element and a metallic element,  
wherein a mean particle size of the phosphor is from 0.01 to 1 $\mu$ m, and  
a coefficient of variation of inter-particle composition distribution of constituting elements in the particles of the phosphor is not more than 50%, and  
wherein the phosphor is produced by the method of claim 7.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)